

City of Northampton  
Massachusetts

In City Council April 21, 2016  
Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

16.053  
AN ORDER

**To appropriate \$46,798 from free cash to match funds for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban Forestry Challenge Grant for Northampton.**

Whereas,

the City of Northampton wishes to integrate urban forestry into its sustainable planning initiatives by recognizing the role that public shade trees play in reducing energy use, improving air quality, mitigating storm water, spawning retail activity, and enhancing quality of life;

Whereas,

the Mayor created a new Public Shade Tree Commission and appointed a Tree Warden to advance this important objective and increased the city's tree planting budget to support their work;

Whereas, a critical next step in their work plan is the creation of a comprehensive public shade tree inventory which can be used to guide re-planting efforts, develop an urban forestry management plan, and inform future policy recommendations;

Whereas,

the City has been awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation which will provide \$30,000 toward this effort;

Whereas,

the City must provide matching funds for the project, which will be used to complete a professional and systematic inventory of approximately 8,000 shade trees and 1000 planting sites in our public rights of way.

Therefore, be it Ordered, that

\$ 46,798 be appropriated from the FY16 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) for the purpose of providing matching funds for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban Forestry Challenge Grant for Northampton.